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of the great wheat provinces. He travelled far north of the Canadian Pacific R.R., sought for a desirable "free farm" and duly paid for his preliminary title to it so that he could tell immigrants the considerations they must have in view in seeking new homes and the methods of acquiring them. He also investigated the sheep runs and the horse and cattle ranches of Alberta, and the valley farming among the mountains of British Columbia.

The chapter of largest geographical interest, "The Great Clay Belt," relates to the region in northern Ontario which is to be crossed by the Grand Trunk Pacific R.R., the projected trans-continental line. Mr. Whates visited this little-known region, which, it had been reported, would offer great opportunities to the immigrant as soon as transportation is provided. He says that the clay belt is an indubitable fact, and that it is about 200 miles wide and 1,000 miles long. But it is also an interminable forest available for agriculture only when it shall have been cleared. The problem which confronts the settler is therefore different from that which he meets on the prairie. He will have to clear land before he can sow or keep live stock. The counter-balancing advantages are that he may sell his marketable logs, that timber for housebuilding will be cheap, and that firewood will be plentiful. The land will grow anything from grain to potatoes, and drought is unknown. There is no doubt of the great promise of this region, but the hardest of pioneers will be required to clear the farm lands.

The book should be of great value to settlers and immigrants in Canada. The author got close to every phase and aspect of the situation. He spared no pains to obtain intimate acquaintance with conditions so that he might tell the exact facts and offer helpful suggestions. Being a writer of experience and ability he knows how to express clearly just what he means, an advantage which, of course, adds much to the value of his book.

Russia. Travels and Studies. By Annette M. B. Meakin. xx and 450 pp., many Illustrations, 4 Maps, and Index. Hurst & Blackett, London, 1906.

The book is almost encyclopædic in the amount of information it gives about nearly every part of European Russia and Trans-Caucasia. Crowding the pages with so many facts would scarcely tend to increase the readability of the volume if it were not that the author is especially interested in these facts, observed them herself and has a correct impression of what will interest the general reader. She rather skillfully avoids the hackneyed and her chapters are solid without sacrifice of entertainment. She pictures many phases of life, sprinkles bits of history among her descriptions, and brings into strong relief the characteristics and individuality of the leading cities. Chapters are devoted to the German population, the Lutheran Church, the peasants, factories and factory hands. Many things not commonly known among the more Western countries excited her curiosity and her inclination to investigate, with results that will interest the majority of intelligent readers. Her earlier works deal chiefly with Russia's Asian possessions and in the present volume she gives the quintessence of her studies of European Russia. The many photographic illustrations are excellent.

The Preliminary Geography. By A. J. Herbertson. viii and 149 pp. 72 Illustrations. The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1906.

This volume is one of "The Oxford Geographies" which Dr. Herbertson has now in preparation. He finds that there is a demand for text-books in which physical and political geography, usually treated in unrelated sections, shall con-

tain the information on these topics which is expected from candidates for preliminary junior and senior examinations. This first volume is largely descriptive, giving definite pictures of the different regions of the globe, with an outline of the salient topographical features and explanations of the phenomena described. The author has endeavoured to select only those geographical facts that are of greatest educational importance and practical utility, and the contents of the book may fairly be expected to be learned by the pupil. Many black-and-white maps, showing chiefly topographical, meteorological, and economic aspects, are included.

Notes d'un Voyage chez les Falachas. Par Jacques Faïtlovitch.
27 pp. Ernest Leroux, Paris, 1905.

The Falashas are Abyssinian Jews whose presence there was revealed by the Scottish explorer, James Bruce. It is now known that their fathers lived in this region ages ago, though their coreligionists were scarcely aware of their existence. The later explorers brought considerable information concerning them and Baron Edmond de Rothschild sent Mr. Faïtlovitch to make a more thorough study of these Jews.

This pamphlet gives the results of his investigations. He found the Falashas at Axum and other places in Abyssinia. They say that the name Falasha indicates that they are exiles or immigrants, and not aborigines. A few of them live in Tigre, but most of them are found in Amhara. They do not speak the language of their fathers but the tongues and dialects of the Abyssinian plateau. Hebrew is entirely unknown to them. Their colour is more or less black, but they claim to have descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and their physiognomy, the persistence of their religious condition, and various traits of character justify their pretensions. The religion they profess is Mosaic, modified by the literature accessible to them. In their prayers they ask the Deity to restore them to Jerusalem, their mother country. Agriculture is their special occupation, but over fifty years ago their lands were taken from them and they were reduced to working for others. The pamphlet is filled with information about this isolated and interesting people.

Die Mohammedanische Gefahr in Westafrika. Von F. Würz.
26 pp. Verlag der Missionsbuchhandlung, Basel, 1904. (Price, 5 cents.)

The author is secretary of the Basel Missionary Society, which has achieved remarkable success in its African industrial schools. While the Colonial Powers were parcelling out the whole of Africa among themselves, a conquest of a different kind was in progress in which the human factors were native Africans and Arabs. The conqueror is Islam and the results of the conquest are partly ethnological and partly political, as well as religious.

The author says that though the districts of Gomoa and Agyimako on the Gold Coast have long been under missionary influence, Islam is now making progress there. The Mohammedans there are not immigrants, but nearly all of them are natives. Their chief priest is a former Wesleyan missionary who took himself, his chapel, and church society, into the Mohammedan fold. Hitherto the lower Niger was inhabited only by heathen tribes. In 1898 there was scarcely a Mohammedan south of Idda. They are now found everywhere along the river as far as Abo, having spread over a region about 100 miles south of their earlier limit. It is not likely that in 1910 there will be any heathen communities on the lower Niger. The important commercial town of Lagos, with 42,000 inhabitants,